

U.S.S.N. 10/664,142

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following Listing of the Claims.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-26 (Canceled).

27.(Currently Amended) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, said method comprising the steps of

a) providing a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, binder, and at least one of a defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, non-leveling agent, surfactant, and solvent; and

b) subsequently adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by sanding the hardened drywall joint compound by at least 50 %, wherein if said dust reducing additive comprises a solvent, the solvent evaporates at a rate slower than water.

28.(Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein when the drywall joint compound of step (a) is allowed to harden and is tested as described in this specification, the joint compound generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns which is at least 72 mg/m³.

Claims 29-34 (Canceled)

35.(Currently Amended) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, non-leveling agent, surfactant, solvent and binder, said method comprising the step of adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by sanding the hardened drywall joint compound, wherein if said dust reducing additive comprises a solvent, the solvent evaporates at a rate slower than water.

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said adding occurring subsequent to the filler, water, defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, nonleveling agent, surfactant, solvent and binder being present in the joint compound.

36.(Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the quantity of dust generated by sanding the drywall joint compound prior to adding the dust reducing additive is at least about 72 mg/m^3 .

37.(Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the quantity of dust generated by sanding the drywall joint compound after adding the dust reducing additive is no greater than about 10 mg/m^3 .

38.(Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the quantity of dust generated by sanding the hardened drywall joint compound prior to adding the dust reducing additive is reduced by at least 50 % after adding the dust reducing additive.

39.(Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the dust reducing additive comprises oil.

40.(Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the oil comprises from about 1.5 % to about 6.0 % of the joint compound total wet weight.

41.(Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises at least one of oil, wax, pitch, paraffin, terpene, and glycol.

42.(Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises at least one of oil, wax, pitch, paraffin, terpene, and glycol.

43.(Currently amended) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, thickener, non-leveling agent, and binder, said method comprising:

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adding a dust reducing additive selected from the group consisting of oils, glycols, waxes, paraffins, terpenes, and combinations thereof, to a the drywall joint compound in an amount sufficient to reduce the quantity of dust generated by sanding the resulting drywall joint compound, when hardened, relative to the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound in the absence of said dust reducing additive.

44.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 43, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises synthetic wax.

45.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises synthetic wax.

46.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises synthetic wax.

47.(Currently amended) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, said method comprising:

opening a container comprising a dry wall joint compound comprising filler, water, thickener, non-leveling agent, and binder; and

adding a dust reducing additive to the joint compound in an amount sufficient to reduce the amount of dust generated by sanding said joint compound, relative to the amount of dust generated by said joint compound prior to the addition of said dust reducing additive,

wherein if said dust reducing additive comprises a solvent, the solvent evaporates at a rate slower than water.

48.(Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said adding comprises adding from 0.1 % by weight to 10 % by weight of said dust reducing additive.

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49.(Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said adding comprises adding from 1.5 % by weight to 6 % by weight of said dust reducing additive.

50.(Previously presented) A method of making a low dust generating drywall joint compound, said method comprising:

combining components comprising

filler,

water,

thickener,

binder, and

from 1.5 % by weight to 6 % by weight of a dust reducing additive comprising at least one glycol, oil, wax, paraffin, terpene or surfactant; and mixing said components.

51.(New) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of

a) providing a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, binder, and at least one of a defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, non-leveling agent, surfactant, and solvent; and

b) subsequently adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by sanding the hardened drywall joint compound by at least 50 % relative to the quantity of dust generated by sanding the hardened drywall joint compound prior to adding the dust reducing additive, said dust reducing additive comprising oil.

52.(New) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, non-leveling agent, surfactant, solvent and binder, said method comprising the step of adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by sanding the hardened drywall joint compound, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises oil,

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said adding occurring subsequent to the filler, water, defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, nonleveling agent, surfactant, solvent and binder being present in the joint compound.

53.(New) The method of claim 52, wherein the oil comprises from about 1.5 % to about 6.0 % of the joint compound total wet weight.